

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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OMB-01 RSR-01 /084 W

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R 281905Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6434

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10014

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, VS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE SENATOR

REF: NEW DELHI 9706

1 NOTEWORTHY FEATURE OF AUGUST 22-25 VISIT TO DELHI BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE SENATOR TRAN QUANG THUAN WAS CORDIAL RECEPTION BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT. VIETNAMESE CONSUL TUAN TOLD US FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH MET WITH SENATOR FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS, WHEN ONLY HALF-HOUR MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED. SENATOR ALSO CALLED ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SURENDRA PAL SINGH AND SECRETARY (EAST) TRIVEDI. SURENDRA PAL SINGH HOSTED DINNER FOR SENATOR.

2. ACCORDING TO TUAN, INDIANS SKIRTED ISSUE OF PRG AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WITH VAGUE REFERENCES TO THEIR SUPPORT

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FOR CONSENSUS ON THIS QUESTION. FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE ABOUT

UNREASONBLE HOSTILITY OF SAIGON TOWARD INDIANS LAST YEAR,

BUT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR INDIANS AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO LET
BYGONES BE BYGONES AND TO WORK FOR BETTER RELATIONS IN FUTURE.
INDIANS MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF A FEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOUTH
VIETNAMESE STUDENTS. THEY SHOWED INTEREST IN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS
WITH SAIGON, AND SENATOR INVITED INDIANS TO SUBMIT PURCHASE
BIDS FOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE SCRAP IRON.

3. COMMENT: VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN DAMPENING
ANTAGONISM THAT HAD BEEN BUBBLING BETWEEN DELHI AND SAIGON SINCE
INDIA RAISED REPRESENTATION IN HANOI TO AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN
EARLY 1972 AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE RETALIATED BY EXPELLING INDIAN
ICC STAFF. INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GENERALLY RESERVED
AND CAUTIOUS IN COMMENTS ON VIET-NAME SINCE MRS. GANDHI'S
PROVOCATIVE REMARKS AT ONE ASIA CONFERENCE THIS SPRING.
MOYNIHAN

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